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THE DRESS, HORSES & EQUIPMENT OF INFANTRY & STAFF OFFICERS

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EQUIPMENT

OF

INFANTRY AND STAFF OFFICERS

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THE

DRESS, HORSES & EQUIPMENT

OF

INFANTRY & STAFF OFFICERS

BY

CAPTAIN HENRY HALLAM PARR, C.M.G.

13TH LIGHT INFANTRY

AUTHOR OF 'A SKETCH OF THE KAFIR AND ZULU WARS'

LONDON

C. KEGAN PAUL & CO., 1 PATERNOSTER SQUARE

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PREFACE.

In one of the issues of the *Army and Navy Gazette* during the month of February 1877, the following paragraph appeared:

'An "ex-Adjutant" has written a smart little *brochure* on uniform and how to wear it, but he has not told us how "the figures" are to be provided in all cases—for the clothes to match. The pamphlet is really full of excellent matter. There is not a doubt that the Infantry officer does not "turn out" as he should, and that the Colonels of that arm are very lax in comparison with the commanding officers of Cavalry regiments. We join heart and hand with the "ex-Adjutant" in denouncing "the battered forage cap and shabby patrol jacket, dim scabbard and tattered sword-knot," too often visible, and we most heartily recommend the work—if it can be called so, for it is not thirty pages in all—to

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our military readers as exceedingly well worthy of their perusal. It is crammed full of usefulness.'

This kindly notice has emboldened the writer to bring out again the pages before published in a different form and with additional matter.

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EQUIPMENT

OF

INFANTRY AND STAFF OFFICERS.

CHAPTER I.

DRESS OF INFANTRY OFFICERS.

Errata.

P. 13, line 25. *For* tight *read* light.
„ 40, „ 13. *For* water *read* matter.
„ 42, „ 26. *For* appoint *read* upon, *and dele* comma.
„ 45, „ 6. *Dele* no.

much according to regulation, without regard to the quality, make, fit, age, &c., of the various parts of their apparel.

There are, of course, many regiments in which the dress of the officers is all that could be desired, and it

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EQUIPMENT

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CHAPTER I.

DRESS OF INFANTRY OFFICERS.

It would be hardly, perhaps, acknowledged by officers of Infantry that in uniform they, as a body, dress worse than any other branch of the service; yet such is undoubtedly the case. And many officers who would never allow themselves to be seen in shabby garments when *en bourgeois*, think nothing of turning out in uniform which is very much the worse for wear.

While Cavalry colonels, as a general rule, keep a sharp eye on the appearance and get-up of their officers, commanding officers of Infantry rarely do more than see that the officers of their battalion are dressed pretty much according to regulation, without regard to the quality, make, fit, age, &c., of the various parts of their apparel.

There are, of course, many regiments in which the dress of the officers is all that could be desired, and it

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invariably augurs well of a corps when its officers are conspicuous by the neatness and smartness of their uniform. In some battalions, however, it is no unusual occurrence to see an officer in a battered forage cap and a shabby patrol jacket, with a dim scabbard and tattered sword-knot, inspect men whose apparel contrasts favourably with his own.

A wish to see the branch of the Service, to which the writer has the honour to belong, improved in this respect, is the *raison d'être* for some of the following pages. Some of these notes may be useful to Volunteer officers, and to officers getting their outfit—commanding officers and adjutants know well what astonishing garments by courtesy called uniform some officers join with.

Colonels of Infantry who feel too old to care for appearances, and consider they cannot urge smartness on their officers by example as well as precept, would do well to follow the lead of the colonel of one of our smartest Cavalry regiments, who used to conclude his lecture to any officer who did not pay sufficient attention to his dress, thus:—'By —— Sir, there shall be only one slovenly man in the ——— and his name is ———————' (naming himself).

The dress of officers of Infantry has been much improved of late years, and it only requires a little care in the fit adjustment, etc., to make it as smart and neat a dress as can be needed.

Of some necessary additions for service we speak later.

Beyond mentioning that the Fusilier cap and helmet should be worn well down over the brows, and that

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the forage-cap peak should come down close over the eyes, nothing need be said about the head dress.

As regards the tunic, the fault most English tailors make is, that they leave too little collar and do not allow the 'red' to come high enough up the neck.

For a tunic to look well, there should be a fair upright collar meeting close and square, sleeves rather narrow, no pockets behind, handkerchief to be carried in the breast (on service or manœuvres everything else in the havresack.) On no account should a collar be worn with the tunic at balls (as is occasionally the case in the Line and frequently in the Reserve Forces). Allowing gold chains, etc., to show in uniform is in the worst taste. The orders on the subject are explicit enough, but are not strictly attended to. The watch should be carried in the trousers pocket or the old-fashioned 'fob.'

Patrol jackets are usually cut too loose and too long. They should be made to fit tolerably well into the waist, something like a Hussar tunic, only easier. Many regiments wear white collars with their patrol jackets, but it is said the custom does not meet with approval, and considering the diversity of opinion which exists as to the shape of this article of dress and as to the method of wearing it, it is not to be wondered at.

A collar, however, on the every day dress is a great advantage for cleanliness sake, and looks well when worn properly, and the following points attended to.

It should be understood that a collar in uniform is to be looked upon as a substitute for the stock, and there should be only one pattern of collar worn.

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The collar should on no account be fastened to the shirt, but to the collar of the coat by three buttons, and not more than $\frac{1}{4}$, and not less than $\frac{1}{8}$, of an inch should show above the coat.

In case it may be considered by some an unmilitary addition to an officer's dress, it may be remarked that the officers of some regiments of Austrian Cavalry, who are as neat and smart as any in Europe, wear white collars with their service dress.

Uniform trousers should not alter with the prevailing fashion, but be cut tolerably straight, neither too loose nor too tight, with cross pockets and not side ones. Side pockets not being secure are useless to carry things in, and the trousers pocket is the place for an officer to carry his watch, money, etc.

Regarding boots—the ankle elastic-side boot is a hybrid abomination, which of late years has almost superseded the Wellington boot with Infantry officers for purposes of parade, and is even used as a riding boot by many Infantry mounted officers. Wellington boots are the proper boots for parade. A good shooting boot of porpoise hide should be worn for marching and manœuvres, and service.

The best pattern boots, perhaps, for service would be a high boot, something like the 'Palliser' boot—the sole and heel like a shooting boot, with the leg made to match the men's gaiters. The laces over the instep would support the foot, and the side buttons enable the boot to be drawn on and off easily when wet.

The great coat should be of good stout cloth, and strongly finished. Unless cautioned, many tailors turn out a very useless garment.

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It should have large inside breast pockets fastening with straps and buckles, and a black coat strap for fastening the coat in a roll, kept in one of them. It is a pity the old chain throat fastening is no longer regulation, as it was very useful when the coat and cape were wanted to be worn as a cloak, which cannot now be done so easily.

The cape should be cut to hang properly over the shoulders, and should fasten to the coat by big strong buttons, and be provided with a strap and buckle for a throat fastening.

The sword should not be too heavy, and servants should be made to keep it as clean as a bayonet, and to burnish the scabbard properly.

The sword-belt should be always kept supple: if it is allowed to get hard, the enamel speedily cracks. The top sling should be of such length that, when the scabbard is placed alongside the leg, it rests easily on the ground. A sword trailing from long slings looks very slovenly.

The sword-knot should be cut to a suitable length, and be fastened by two or three turns only to the sword-hilt. The perpetual lacing and unlacing renders it shabby in a very short time, if it is intertwined all round the hilt.

The sash properly folded should be tied just above the hip, tassels not to hang below the skirts of the tunic.

Gloves to be of good thick buckskin, cleaned on trees in the same way and with the same preparation as hunting breeches. Servants should not be allowed to use the mixture of pipe clay and ammonia soldiers

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make to clean their belts with. They are very apt to do so, and it destroys the gloves, besides being very nasty.

There is, properly speaking, no recognised Service Dress for officers of Infantry, and it is not laid down that we are even to carry a great coat.

The following arrangement is suggested in order to make an officer as independent as possible of his light baggage—to place him in point of fact on an equality with any soldier with his valise:—

Service dress (to be worn at manœuvres and camping out).

Helmet.

Tunic with collar coming well up the neck, but made easy in throat and chest to admit of a waistcoat with sleeves and collar to be worn underneath, if necessary. Tunic with large inside breast pockets.

Regulation trousers, with cross pockets.

High boots and gaiters.

A havresack, with partitions, to enable the bread and meat, etc., being kept separate, and to permit of other articles being carried therein without being soiled by food.

Field glass or telescope with compass. The belt (worn over the sash) to be of white leather, not broader where it crosses the breast than the havresack, so as not to present any perceptible difference to the appearance of the men.

A revolver, to be as light and small as is compatible with efficient fire; to be carried over the left hip on the sword-belt on runners. A small ammunition pouch

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to be carried on the right of the sword-belt clasp in the same way.

Sword, not too heavy, and well-pointed.

The great coat to be folded as the men's are for valise equipment, but carried like the old pattern pack or slung over one shoulder. The coat to have two large breast pockets, the mouth of each fastening with two straps and buckles. In one pocket should be carried a flannel or silk shirt, handkerchief, and service forage cap; in the other, a pair of socks, bandage, roll of lint, small towel, soap, and woollen cap to sleep in.

A light waterproof sheet or coat should be strapped up with the coat.

Water bottle—a pattern for officers should be decided upon.

No braces, but a Norwegian belt should be worn, which would pass through two or three loops in the waistband of the trousers. On the left side of the belt, a hunting knife on the Norwegian pattern, fitting deeply into its sheath, should be carried. Two or three London firms make knives such as the above, with belt, etc., complete. In the handle there is a corkscrew, lancet, pair of scissors, and picker. The blade is a fixture, and can be used as a dagger. On the rings of the belt it is useful to keep two or three plated swivels.

On the right side of the belt is to be carried a leather purse for money, etc., with an inside flap, fastening closely with strap and buckle.

An officer should carry a strong (keyless hunting) watch and a pocket compass. He has already one compass with his field glass.

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The watch and compass should be kept apart, as the compass will injure the watch. The following description of watchguard or chain will be found useful. A strip of pigskin about ½ inch wide, about 6 inches long, ending in tails ¼ of an inch wide and 4 inches long: total length of leather, 10 inches—each tail to end with a small but strong plated swivel on which to fasten the articles required in the pockets. Let there be two tails at one end for the watch, and say a strong Mordaunt's pencil and pen case with knife; at the other end four tails for compass, keys, pocket scissors, etc.

Pocket book, sketching materials, etc., and other things which, according to the taste and capabilities of the individual, will suggest themselves, can be carried in the havresack.

Many of the points mentioned in this chapter may seem trifles, but they all tend to health and comfort, and the more healthy and comfortable officers are, the more capable they are of looking well after their men, and performing their many duties efficiently.

It is to be hoped that, now definite regulations regarding the amount of baggage officers are permitted to have on service have been made, the attention of the authorities will be before long directed to the question of the amount of regimental baggage to be carried in ordinary times. The expense both to the Government and individuals by the present system of carrying about huge masses of heavy baggage is very great.

A regiment is ordered from Plymouth to Chester; a second, from Chester to Cork; a third, from Cork to

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Plymouth. Accordingly between thirty and forty sets of barrack furniture (consisting of tubs, washing-stands, arm-chairs, chests of drawers, &c., all of nearly the same pattern and dimensions), and a large number of very heavy chests and iron clamped boxes—grievous to be borne—containing the mess property, make the journey with each regiment, and arrive at their destinations much the worse for wear, having cost the Government a considerable sum for their conveyance.

Those of philosophic tendencies, who have a fancy for studying the effect of tribulation on different characters, would be interested by the various bearings of the officers of a regiment while superintending the unpacking of their several effects after a rough voyage.

Officers' quarters should be furnished with everything except carpet, curtains, bedding, &c., and officers should be obliged to provide themselves with regulation field equipment, as in India they are obliged to provide themselves with tents and camp equipment for the march.

In orders announcing a march or change of quarters, the clause 'Officers' service baggage only,' would imply that only the amount of baggage laid down for service (*i.e.*, field kit 40 lbs. and small bullock trunk of about 100 lbs.) would be taken with the regiment, and the heavy baggage would follow by sailing ship or be forwarded by a different route.

As regards the officers' and sergeants' messes, crockery and glass should be supplied by the Ordnance Store Department, and breakages made good in the same way as damage done to the billiard room fittings and furniture.

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The barrack furniture belonging to officers at present in use could be taken over at a valuation, in the same way that the billiard tables of regiments were, a short time since, bought by Government.

The above changes would at once reduce the impedimenta of a regiment very much, and the mess, having little more than plate and linen to carry, would avoid the heavy charges for breakages which have to be made against officers after every change of quarters.

The system is one which only requires some one with energy and a talent of organisation to inaugurate, and would work well and easily, and add much to the mobility of troops. At present the amount of packing and baggage carrying which has to be got through upon a regiment getting the route is ridiculous and unsoldierlike.

By the proposed alterations the Government would escape the cost of the carriage of so heavy a weight of baggage, and the officers the expense of replacing the broken and damaged portions of their belongings, and officers and men would avoid a great proportion of those abominable baggage fatigues, so cordially detested by them both.

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CHAPTER II.

DRESS OF MOUNTED AND STAFF OFFICERS.

INFANTRY officers who receive promotion to field rank, or appointments which oblige them to be mounted, are often somewhat puzzled as to what they had better do to fit themselves out.

If they are desirous of looking as if Providence and the authorities intended them for their position, they must not fasten down a pair of walking trousers over a pair of ankle boots, and think themselves equipped for riding; nor send to their tailors for a shapeless two-slinged sabretache, nor obtain an equally shapeless pair of boots from the nearest bootmaker, and take over some weather-bleached saddlery from their predecessors.

Let them do none of these things.

Trousers for riding must be cut from 2½ to 3½ inches longer than walking trousers, and they must be well strapped down over the boot and spur, and fit tight round the heel. The straps should always be fixtures, and should fasten with a buckle (according to Cavalry Regulation), or under the instep with two buttons. As for rough or dirty work high boots are now worn, the latter plan is perhaps the best. The straps should be worn broad where they join the trousers, narrowing off under the instep.

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Wellington boots always, and ankle boots *never*, should be worn with riding trousers.

Boots, spurs, and overalls should be drawn on together—the spurs first inserted in the boot-heels, the trousers then strapped down over the boots and turned half inside out, two pairs of boot hooks inserted in the boot pulls, and the whole placed ready for use.

Pantaloons should be made nearly like hunting breeches, with plenty of length to the knee, and not too tight in the thigh. A flap-fall will be found better than the fly and button opening, as hunting experiences on the lee side of your horse, when the fingers are cold and numb, will prove.

In drawing on pantaloons, keep the stripe well to the front.

Boots for the mounted officer are of two sorts: Wellingtons with overalls, and for dress and evening wear; high boots for wearing with pantaloons.

High boots should be half jacked and not wrinkled like a hunting-boot, and there must be a rest to keep the spur in its place. They should be workmanlike and tolerably heavy, without being clumsy on the one hand, or too light or papery on the other.

A 'V' cut out at the top of the boot in front looks neat and well.

The question as to whether boots should be blacked or varnished must be left to the taste of the wearer. With overalls varnished boots certainly look the best; while on the other hand varnished high boots on a field day may by some be considered to look a little circus-like. In the Appendix will be found a recipe for varnish

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which may be worth trying. It can be used on plain as well as on patent leather.

The spurs should be well made and moderately heavy, and look as if they are intended for use and not merely for show. For evening and dress wear they may be lighter and *must* have dumb rowels.

The sword of a mounted officer of Infantry should be the size of a light Cavalry officer's sword.

The sword-belt should be made on rings, Cavalry pattern, and its clasps, buckles, and swivels should be strong and workmanlike. Tailors and accoutrement makers, unless well looked after, supply miserable articles, more like theatrical properties than soldiers' gear.

The length of the sword and sabretache slings should be attended to. The top sword-sling of a mounted Infantry or a Staff officer is often much too long. The length of the top sword-sling should be such that, when passing the sword arm over the bridle hand to 'draw swords,' the hilt should come easily into the hand, *i.e.*, about a hand's breadth below the bridle-arm elbow. When mounted, the sword-scabbard must be passed through the sabretache loop.

The sabretache should hang so that, when mounted, the top edge can be just taken hold of by the fingers of the bridle hand. The sabretache should be tight and well shaped, and should have three slings. No two-slinged sabretache can look or hang well.

The front sling should be the shortest, and the middle and rear slings in proportion, so that the sabretache shall hang square when its wearer is mounted.

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It is a pity that no rules are laid down for the sword movements of mounted officers of Infantry. At Aldershot it is understood that they salute in marching past according to Cavalry regulation, but when not saluting, mounted officers, as a rule, hold their swords in a position something between the slope and the carry, which looks excessively bad.

When the men are at the slope or order, mounted officers should be at the slope. When the men are at the shoulder, they should be at the carry.

The sword motions required by mounted officers are as follows:—

'DRAW SWORDS.'

1st Motion. Bring the hand smartly across the body over the bridle hand to the sword knot, place the sword knot upon the wrist, and give it a couple of turns inwards. As the handle of the sword is grasped, turn the hilt to the rear, and raise the arm to the height of the elbow, arm being close to the body.

2nd Motion. By a second motion, draw the sword from the scabbard to the full extent of the arm, sink the hand until the hilt is under the chin, the blade perpendicular, edge to the left, and elbow close to the body.

This is the position of 'Recover Swords.'

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3rd Motion. By a third motion bring the hilt down resting on the right thigh; elbow near to the body; blade perpendicular; grasp of third and fourth fingers slightly relaxed. This is the position of 'Carry Swords.'

To come to the 'Slope,' raise the fore-arm till nearly at right angles with the upper part of the arm, at the same time allowing the blade to rest on the shoulder; edge turned slightly to the right: elbow close to the body; wrist on a line with the fore-arm.

'RETURN SWORDS.'

1st Motion. Carry the hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder; blade perpendicular; edge to the front; back of the hand to the front; then, by a quick turn of the wrist, drop the point into the scabbard, and resume 1st Motion of Draw Swords.

2nd Motion. Let the sword fall smoothly into the scabbard from the hand, at the same time loosening the sword knot from the wrist.

3rd Motion. By a third motion bring the hand smartly to the right side.

The salute is in two motions, and is always made from the carry:

1st Motion. The sword is brought to the recover.

2nd Motion. To the salute at full extent of right arm, the blade passing about six inches below the right knee.

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The sword is brought again to the carry in two motions.

When mounted, the sword knot should be attached by one turn to the hilt, to enable the hand to be passed through it.

A mounted officer's great coat should partake of the character of the Cavalry cloak, and reach nearly to the ankles, and have the skirt well split up for riding. The great difficulty with the cloak is to prevent it blowing off the knees and thighs, when riding in wind and rain.

About six inches below the knee, and three inches from the edge of the inside of the coat, there should be a strap on each skirt about two inches broad (of the same stuff as the coat), and from twelve to eighteen inches long, the other end should be buttoned back along the inside of the coat when not required; but for riding, when passed round the leg before being buttoned, these straps will keep the coat skirts from flying, take the strain off the lowest button of the coat, and do away with an inconvenience which is much felt by mounted men riding cloaked.

The cape should be cut like a cavalry cape, coming well down over the shoulders, and should fasten to the coat by big strong buttons, and be provided with a strap and buckle for a throat fastening. There should be a loop on the inside of the cape to fasten to a button on the coat in the middle of the back, so as to prevent the cape from blowing over the head. A gilt chain fastening will be found very useful to hook the coat, when used as a cloak.

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STAFF OFFICERS' UNIFORM.

As a Staff officer is generally more or less *en évidence*, he is obliged to take especial care to turn himself out well, and to keep up the credit of the English Staff.

An officer joining the Staff will probably regard his first cocked hat with some awe. But let him not be dismayed, nor permit his tailor to persuade him into taking it for better or for worse until it fits his head skin-tight, and feels firm and secure, without the assistance (which his tailor will probably suggest) of elastic to keep the head-dress in its place.

Let him make sure of the plume with which he is supplied, lest it turn out to be the one he is not entitled to wear; and let him take care it is fitted firm and tight in its socket.

Passing to the forage cap: it should be stiff, and the peak should come straight down over the eyes in a line from the crown of the cap.

The tunic should be carefully made. The top gold knots should commence well out on the point of the shoulder, narrowing down in succession to the waist. The tunic should be short enough not to touch the saddle when the rider is mounted.

The frock coat and the red false waistcoat, which is worn with it, are subject a good deal to the fancy of the wearer. It would be well if distinct regulations on the subject were laid down. The black silk scarf and

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gold pin worn by many staff officers have not a very military appearance.

The following arrangement is suggested as the neatest adaptation of the present dress.

The red waistcoat to be trimmed with thicker gold cord than at present, and to be made to hook high up the throat like a Cavalry waistcoat; buttoned on to it should be a white linen stand-up collar or stock, showing a quarter of an inch all round; the roll collar of the frock coat to cross and fasten as high as possible.

The inside flap of the frock coat should fasten by hooks in three places; the outside flap fastens of course to the olivets.

Care should be taken that the frock coat is well cut and fits well. The skirts should be tolerably long, and not too scanty. Some Cavalry regiments decide the length of their frock skirts by having them to just touch the ground when the wearer kneels on one knee. This, however, is rather long.

When the frock is worn on mounted duties, the edges of each skirt should be looped back (like the military coats of the last century) by hook and eye. This looks neat, and prevents the skirts from flying about and being soiled by the sweat of the horse.

There are a variety of opinions as to the form of mess dress that looks best. We venture to state our own, that the most soldier-like shape is that worn in the Cavalry, showing, however, a white collar or stock.

A few years ago, when regiments followed their fancy to some extent regarding mess dress, some corps

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had very neat and smart mess jackets, with turndown or roll collars, and white or nearly plain waistcoats. A black or white tie and expanse of shirt-front went well with such.

But it is open to question whether a tie and shirt-front look well with a lace-trimmed jacket and waistcoat.

Overalls, boots, great-coat, etc., etc., have already been noticed.

There remains the pouch, which Staff officers are rather prone to wear too low on the back. The pouch should be worn well up between the shoulders, not dangling loose a few inches above the waistbelt. A small cord loop on the inside of the pouch belt in front is useful to pass over an olivet, in order to assist in keeping the pouch in its place. A pouch, especially with anything in it, has a tendency to slip down under the sword arm.

SERVICE DRESS.

The Staff patrol jacket is the service dress of the Staff, and is one of the best and most comfortable coats in the service, the flying tags enabling it to be worn in different ways.

For service the collar should come well up the throat, but be made loose, so as to give plenty of room. The coat should be loose in the chest, and should be cut short enough to clear the saddle.

There should be large outside breast pockets, 4½ or 5 inches by 6 or 6½ inches, fastening with a concealed

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button; also smaller inside breast and flap pockets. The pockets should be lined with chamois leather.

A mounted officer should take care that he has his service pantaloons strapped in seat and thighs, and that they are easy enough and roomy. Sleeping in tight breeches is unsatisfactory. It is presumed that he will discard braces, and use the belt and knife mentioned before. The pantaloons should have three or four loops for the belt to pass through.

The best form of high boot for rough work is a supple brown leather boot, only slightly jacked, regulation shape in the leg, but with an alteration in the foot.

The question how to get high boots on and off easily when wet has not been yet very satisfactorily solved.

The following plan is as good as any when there is time and opportunity to have boots made.

The boot as above should be cut so loose over the instep that one should be able to pass one hand in when the foot is in the boot; the leather over the instep should be quite supple. To keep on the boot there should be two pieces of leather sewn on either side to lace across the instep, just in the same manner as that by which a blucher is fastened.

If there is not time to have boots made, any intelligent cobbler could carry out the following alteration in a pair of boots already in wear:—

Cut the leather lengthways along the instep from two inches from the great toe joint to a point on a line with the ankle bone; insert what is called a bellows tongue, which should give over the centre of the instep at least

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three inches more room. Lace-holes should be punched on each side of the cut part of the boot, and the boot laced up over the instep.

Take care that boots for service are big and easy, so that extra pairs of socks can be worn.

For service the mounted officer will derive much comfort from exchanging the regulation belt and scabbard from the Probyn belt and leather scabbard. The difference of weight between the metal and leather scabbard is considerable.

The following belt will also prove comfortable and serviceable:—A brown leather belt made on rings like a Cavalry belt, only much lighter, and with a snake fastening. Only one sword sling, consisting of a broad and rather stiff strap about eight inches long, narrowing to where it meets the sword buckle. A leather scabbard with strong buckle on the inside, about two inches from the mouth, to receive the sword-belt sling. The belt to have three dees for sabretache slings. The dees on the sabretache to have small buckles and straps, so as to fasten on to the saddle instead of the belt when required.

A short strap, broad enough to receive the scabbard buckle, should also be looped on to one of the saddle dees, so that the sword can be strapped when necessary on to the saddle.

The revolver should be slung over the right shoulder, hanging under the left arm. The revolver case should have loops on it, so that it can be passed on to the sword belt as occasion requires.

The waterproof cloak should be made to order and

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carefully fitted, and strengthened with leather at the seams. A really well-fitted waterproof coat is invaluable in wet, and even in cold weather; but unless it is well fitted round the neck and shoulders, driving rain will not be kept out. The collar should be high, and fasten with two or three hooks; double mackintosh over the shoulder is useful; and there should be a loose flap to turn down and button over the hands. The coat should come down to the ankles, and have the three straps as described, page 16, to prevent the skirts flying. It should be well split up for riding. Where much wet is expected, a pair of waterproof overalls opening at the side are invaluable, as the thighs, etc., are then sure to be kept dry.

Some officers are inclined to get very careless as regards their dress on service. This is a mistake, as it encourages the men to be slovenly, and has generally a bad effect. Possessing a clothes brush, with brown leather belts, boots, and scabbard, and a pair of brown leather gloves, all of which can be sponged over by a servant or orderly in a couple of minutes (the spurs being rubbed up with an oil rag at the same time), there is no reason why an officer should not turn out, as a general rule, neat and clean.

Any officer who wants thorough and exhaustive information regarding a service dress and kit should obtain the number of the *Magazine of the United Service Institution* containing the lecture delivered by Major Fraser, R.E., on February 3, 1879. There is an appendix to the lecture, containing most useful lists of kit, saddlery, etc., etc., with notes as to where the various articles can be obtained.

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CHAPTER III.

SADDLERY, EQUIPMENT, AND CHARGERS.

SADDLERY should always be procured at a good London saddler's; it always pays best, though the outlay may be greater at first. The work and finish are incomparably better, and the manner in which all the articles stand wear and tear well repays the expense.

Up to about two years ago the hunting saddle was still the regulation saddle for mounted Infantry and Staff officers. Since the first edition of this pamphlet was published an excellent saddle has been adopted, and is far more useful than the old hunting saddle. It is built on a tree something similar to the Cavalry saddle-tree (thus rendering it very difficult for a horse to get a sore back, with proper care, or to get wrung or pinched withers), and has the great advantage, which the Cavalry saddle has not, of permitting the rider to sit where he likes in it, to ride with either short or long stirrups; and thus enables him to rest himself by changing his seat during a long march or day's journey.

It would be an advantage if a crupper were made part of the horse equipment of Staff and mounted

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Infantry officers. The great majority of horses throw their saddles forward rather than back, more especially when the saddle is loaded with valise or saddle-bag, or when they begin to get low in condition from hard work and exposure.

The saddle-cloth requires to be well shaped, and few men out of London can turn out a good one.

Mounted officers should see that their servants bring them their horses clean and well turned out, and should not be content with unburnished steel and badly cleaned and untidily put-on saddlery.

THE CHARGER.

A great deal of nonsense is talked about horses not being quiet enough for parade, and also not standing being ridden on the bit, etc.

Almost any horse can be made a good parade horse by a little schooling, and all horses, however quiet and well broken they may be as hacks or hunters, ought to receive some further instruction before they are qualified for Infantry or Staff chargers.

The more fiery and high-couraged a horse is (so long as he has no vice), the more intelligent and quick at learning he usually is; and two hours a day, or less, for a week or ten days, will teach any well-tempered horse all that he needs to know.

The charger of an Infantry or Staff officer ought to learn to stand perfectly still when once halted (it is

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astonishing how soon a nervous and excitable horse will understand and abide by this rule), to rein back and passage, be accustomed to work on the bit, and strike off properly to either hand at a canter. All commanding officers would do well if they insisted upon their mounted officers' chargers being thus far broken for parade ; first commencing with their own.

As was said above, very few horses, properly handled, are too fiery or nervous for parade. Horses delight in noise and martial sounds, as any one can convince himself by watching the horses of a Cavalry regiment when the band strikes up. The reason why horses on parade sometimes give trouble is that when any firing takes place, or music commences, they are accustomed to be taken short by the head, to have their sides gripped convulsively by their riders' legs, and thus given to understand that something out of the common is going to happen.

They consequently participate in their riders' emotion, and begin to fidget and caper (often rendering their riders' seats insecure, or tempers uneven) ; whereupon, objurgation and jobbing in the mouth. Scenes of this sort being performed two or three times, horses learn to expect something disagreeable, and thus become nervous and troublesome when they hear music and firing.

Officers who do not feel capable of breaking in their own horses for parade should send them for a short course of riding school, if they are in the neighbourhood of a Cavalry regiment. If they make interest with the riding-master, he would see the horse was

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given to a light-handed and careful rough-rider, and the horse would return to his owner improved in every way.

As regards the riding of mounted officers of Infantry, it is not all that could be wished for: and not, in most cases, because they cannot ride, for Infantry men in the hunting-field and on the racecourse can generally hold their own; but because they insist upon riding on parade upon a wrong principle.

For parade the ideas of the hunting-field should be dropped; they are as out of place there as part of the science of the *manège* is in the field. A Cavalry officer riding at a fence on the bit, with his sword arm down by his side, would be a no more absurd sight than that which is so often seen of the Infantry officer moving out to take up a point with his shoulders up to his ears, his horse with all his weight on his forehead, entirely on the snaffle, and moving in a disconnected canter.

Let any one who considers the equitation of mounted officers severely animadverted upon call to mind the intricate manœuvres by which, as a rule, the colonel and majors of a battalion endeavour to get into their places in front of the column when the salute at the beginning of a field day is about to be given, and the lamentable display of horsemanship which often ensues on the order 'Mounted officers to the front,' at the end of one.

The mounted officer should close his elbows and ride on the bit, and remember that a light give-and-take feeling is necessary, and not a steady hold as on

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the snaffle. His legs should guide his horse as much as his bridle hand, and his sword hand ought not to interfere in the matter more than by shortening or lengthening the bit rein when required, by taking hold of it at the butt.

In moving out to take up points or cover markers, the mounted officer should move at a canter, the horse leading with the leg towards the point he is making for. The rider must assist the animal by leg (or spur, if necessary), and rein to strike off correctly and 'united.'

It would be presumptuous of the writer to pretend to instruct in breaking horses, but still a few notes on the subject may aid officers who are desirous of rendering their chargers handy and steady on parade to attain their object.

Given a hack or hunter with tolerable manners, how should his owner set to work to render him a good parade horse?

We have somewhat altered our system of training our chargers since the time when a standard book on the subject (published about Charles II.'s time) directed that, if a horse did not stand still when there was firing or 'musick, you must call to him in a terrible voice; if he then be not tranquil, strike him between the ears with a staffe or clubbe.' The first part of this advice is sometimes still followed; the second has gone out of fashion.

The first thing you should teach your horse is to remain properly halted when you mount him, without any one holding his head. Half an hour or less for a

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couple of days will teach him this, and he will never forget it, if you always check him whenever he shows, on being mounted, an inclination to move off before you give him the proper signal. Caution your man on the subject, and see he pays attention to what you say. Grooms are often responsible for horses' bad manners; they generally swing themselves into the saddle, and let the horse move on at the same time, than which nothing is more slovenly. When mounting yourself, do not let the man who brings you your horse hang on to its head; let him hold your stirrup; you yourself should make your horse remain halted. When you intend to instruct your horse, ride out to a place where there will be nothing to attract the horse's attention from you—a high hedge, or a dead wall, etc., etc.—and then begin to come to an understanding with him. Mount and dismount him until he understands that your getting into the saddle is no reason why he should move. Make much of him, and let him hear your voice, and understand what you say. The above lesson will have a steadying effect on the most fidgety horse.

Next teach him to rein back, so that you will not have to make an entire circle when you want to retire your horse a few yards.

First get in front of him, take the bridoon at the cheek, draw it through his mouth with gentle pressure, speaking to him, 'Rein back, boy! rein back!' etc., etc. Tap him on the chest with your whip if he shows any disinclination to move. Make him step back step by step, and make much of him; then mount him. Always

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set your horse in a proper position when you are going to mount him: head straight in front of him; neck bent, not stuck out stiff; fore legs well out, etc., etc. It is remarkable how soon a horse will understand he is not allowed to stand in a slovenly position.

When mounted, collect your horse; take him on the bridoon, and, by gentle pressure of legs and hands, speaking to him at the same time, induce him to step back. Make much of him at the first backward pace. Should you find he sticks his fore legs out, you must press him up to the hand again, bringing his haunches up to his fore hand. Do not let him ever run back; the 'rein back' must always be done slowly and deliberately.

A horse must learn to rein back in order that he may be accustomed to collect himself on his haunches, so as to be handy in turning and starting on parade. By it he will also learn to drop his head to his rider's hand, and bend his neck. A horse with his nose in the air, and his neck stuck out straight, cannot prove a handy charger.

After the horse has learnt to rein back on the snaffle or bridoon, gradually accustom him to do it on the bit, remembering there must never be a dead pull from your hand, but a give-and-take pressure.

After the horse has learned to rein back, teach him the turnings. It may here be pointed out that you should never move or turn your horse without using your legs to him—not necessarily your spurs, but the side of your legs. The more you can guide your horse

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by your legs, and the less by the reins, the better your will be working your horse.

In the *manège* horses are taught to turn on the fore hand, the centre, or the quarters. It is, however, only necessary that a mounted officer should be able to turn his horse neatly and quickly.

Try first the turn to the right. Place your horse square; take up the right bridoon rein in your right hand; feel the right side of your horse's mouth, so as to make your horse turn his head so far to the right that you can just see his right eye (this is, in riding-school parlance, 'bending to the right'); then, while using gently the left leg, press him strongly with the right; feel the right bridoon rein strongly, pressing the left against his neck, and do not let him advance. When you have succeeded in turning to the right, halt him, and make much of him; then complete the right-about.

For the turn to the left, and left-about, reverse the use of the legs and reins.

After the horse has learnt the turnings on the bridoon, work him through them on the bit. The hardest movement to teach your horse will be found the passage and half passage.

Let it be supposed you are schooling your horse alongside a wall (or hedge), and that the wall is on your left (in riding-school parlance, you are 'working to the right'). Collect your horse; bend him to the right, taking the right bridoon rein in your sword hand; press him strongly with your left leg, closing your right leg on him to support him; feel the right

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rein strongly, pressing the left against his neck. He should move nearly at right angles to the wall when he has thoroughly learnt the movement; but let him come to this by degrees.

In case he should move too square, ease the pressure of your left leg. After a few paces ease your hand, press him up parallel to the wall with your right leg, and make much of him. In this manner the horse can be taught, in a rough and ready way, right and half-right passage.

When the horse is passaging his body should be at right angles to the line on which he is moving. In the half passage the horse's body should be at an angle of 45°.

When you wish to start at a canter from a walk, with a horse not yet perfect at striking off, place your horse as if you were going to make a half passage to right or left, according as you wish your horse to lead with the right or left leg.

Other movements, such as circling to the right and left, teaching the horse to change his leg at a canter, etc., etc., will strike those who are interested in the matter, and may be practised with advantage to horse and horseman.

After these movements have been well learnt and understood by your horse (which should take an hour's lesson every day for a week, more or less, according to the patience and capabilities of the teacher, and the previous training and temper of the pupil), you have only to teach your horse to stand fire, and accustom him to the band. You should have accustomed him to sword and sabretache during his schooling.

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If the horse is of a nervous temper, have him first *led*, not ridden, to where the band is playing or musketry going on. If it is at a distance, let him be ridden out and dismounted three hundred yards from the object he is to be accustomed to. Let him be gradually brought to understand all about it, and, by being made much of, and having something he is fond of given him to eat, let him come to expect something agreeable, and not, as is usually the case, some unpleasantness, when he hears music or firing. The animal will soon disregard the firing, and will probably become very fond of the band.

A nervous and timid horse which belonged to the writer got so fond of the band that, whenever it struck up and the horse was in the neighbourhood, it would, when permitted, march towards it, and not halt until it had placed itself in the rear of the big drummer, its nose within a few inches of the instrument.

While breaking in his charger, the owner ought to be somewhat adapting his seat to the exigencies of parade. He should drop squaring his elbows, and accustom himself to sit up in his saddle, and keep his elbows close; the heels should be kept down, and away from the horse's flank, the lower part of the leg braced, and the foot not driven home in the stirrup.

The following will be found a convenient way of holding the reins, though not precisely the way laid down by English Cavalry regulation:—

Place the fingers of the bridle hand through the bridoon rein, the sewn part passing over the knuckle of the first finger; put down your thumb on the rein

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where the join is, to keep it in its place. With the sword hand place the bit-rein over the third finger, and draw the rein up.

Your bridle hand should be opposite the centre of your body, about four to six inches from it. When you want to ease your hand, or tighten the bit rein more than can be done by movement of the wrist, do not move your arm about. In the first instance, let the rein slip through your fingers; in the second, shorten your rein with your sword hand, taking hold of the rein at the butt and drawing it up through the fingers of the bridle hand. Your bridle-hand wrist should be rounded.

With your reins held as just described, should you wish to change from the bit on to the bridoon, all that has to be done is to take hold, with your sword hand, of the sewn part, and draw the rein up, placing the third finger of your bridle hand over the right bridoon rein at the same time. There is then a rein between each finger, the bridoon reins being the two outside ones.

In case you are desirous of holding your horse especially straight and firmly, take the right bridoon rein in your right hand.

To officers about to serve, for the first time, on the Staff, the following hints may be useful:—

When you have an order to take, do not whip your horse round and set him going as if you were trying for a start in a four-furlong spin. Start at a canter, without a fuss, and increase your pace gradually to any extent you may fancy, PROVIDED the course is pretty clear. Steady your horse when you near your destination, and arrive in a steady and collected canter.

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In 'marching past' keep your horse square and straight, and try to make him *walk*. Do not (as often happens) forget to salute the colours when you pass them, or when they pass you. Always, while awaiting orders or in attendance, keep your horse's head turned towards the officer on whose staff you are.

If any officer who reads these lines feels inclined to go into the subject of *manège* riding and horse breaking, he will find that Captain Nolan's book on the subject, published about 1856, is interesting and useful. The title of the book is 'Equitation and the Training of Cavalry Horses.'

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CHAPTER IV.

CARE OF HORSES IN THE FIELD.

I VENTURE here to add a few words regarding the care of horses in the field.

It should be remembered, a horse's stomach is very small in comparison to his size; but, though it is easily emptied, it is easily stayed, and a few ounces of bread given at the right time will do much for a horse.

A horse in the hunting field goes a long time without food; but on the march he has not the excitement of the chase, nor are there the comforts of the home stable afterwards.

The mounted officer should take his own precautions for providing himself with spare shoes and nails, and carry a spare set with him. The spare nails should have the points slightly bent, so as not to run up into the foot. It takes an apprentice smith a long time to point a nail properly; so the nails carried should be always ready pointed for the amateur.

A small rubber, piece of sponge, comb, and a half-sized dandy brush will not take up much room, and will add greatly to the comfort of the horse when his day's work is done.

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It should be remembered that when it is not possible to obtain cover of any kind in winter time for a horse, the animal's loins are his most vulnerable point, and the part which should be covered if possible.

In a severe climate, to save your horses, procure for each a piece of felt or good blanket of close texture, not common horse blanket. Have this cut so as to use it folded in four as a numnah. This spread out will go far to protect your horses. Have thin leather circingles or overgirths made; they must pass through two small loops in the blankets or felt covers, and be at night used as rollers. With the saddles they can be used as overgirths.

When really in the rough, the less grooming a horse gets in cold weather the better, and the more grease he has in his coat the less he will suffer from the cold. Grooms should never be allowed to wet horses in cold weather, and when they are muddy; but the mud should be allowed to dry, and it then can be removed sufficiently for the horse's comfort with great facility. Eyes, nostrils, sheath, dock, and hoofs are the only parts of a horse which ought to be touched with water. Continual washing is not good at any time, and makes a horse very miserable in cold weather when there is neither a warm stable nor plenty of rubbers and patience to dry him. The two things most delightful to a tired horse are having his ears scientifically pulled and indulging in a good roll.

With a beaten horse every possible endeavour should be made to make the animal stale. If there is much difficulty, let, if possible, a piece of ginger be obtained

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about half the size of an acorn. This should be pushed into the rectum, and the irritation thus caused will probably have the desired effect. If ginger is unprocurable, a piece of acorn or a bean softened, moistened and dipped in pepper, is a tolerably good makeshift. In the field remember that on the success of the endeavour probably depends whether next day your horse will be fit to travel, or whether he will not be worth the iron on his four shoes.

If a horse is really 'beat,' give rum or brandy (if it is to be got) in small quantities, the proportion of $\frac{2}{3}$ water to $\frac{1}{3}$ of spirit, and warm if practicable, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pint at a time. Hot beer is the best thing if obtainable. A quart with a glass of brandy in it given in three doses, one every ten minutes.

To drench a horse the simplest way is to tie together the two ends of a piece of rope two feet long; hold the horse's head up, pass the rope over his upper jaw, and then over a forked stake, or the muzzle of a rifle between the ramrod and the barrel, and keep the head as high as you can.

Water your horse very frequently when possible, and do not mind his being rather hot when he drinks, if you do not let him stand, or go to his stable or bivouac, directly afterwards. Do not yourself, or allow any one else to, administer those strong diuretics to your horses (such as nitre), which some people are so fond of drugging their horses with, and which act so directly on the kidneys. The only time these are allowable, and then in careful doses, is when a horse has a week's rest.

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Lose no time in having your horse examined when any discharge from the nostrils makes its appearance.

Be careful that your saddle-bags and valise are well packed, and that they cannot gall your horse.

Examine your horses' backs carefully every night and morning. Many a sore back has been avoided by this rule being attended to.

Carry, if possible, a feed of corn on your saddle. If you are short of forage, endeavour to procure something or other as a substitute—soaked crust of bread, chopped roots, leaves, grass, &c.

For abrasions, girth galls, &c., use carbolic oil, washing the places with warm water at the end of the day, and again applying the oil.

For bruises and blows, foment to draw out inflammation, then use arnica lotion. (*See* Appendix.) On a journey use carbolic oil.

For blow to the eye foment, shade from the light, and use extract of lead or sulphate of zinc, one grain to the ounce of water.

For cuts, wash the wound carefully to get out all dirt, then close lips of wounds and sew up with sharp needle and silk thread. Do not draw stitches too tight. Use carbolic oil on lips of wound. If foul flesh makes its appearance, touch with caustic.

For gripes, if the proper remedies (*see* Appendix) cannot be got at, keep the horse moving, if possible, at a trot, having first given him a strong drink of spirit and water as hot as it can be drunk. Beer with ginger and brandy in it is better, but less likely to be procurable. A piece of iron hoop heated red-hot in a camp

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fire will heat the drench. Back-raking (to be gently and quietly done by a man with a small hand and the hand greased) is sometimes of use.

Cracked heels are very troublesome things to deal with on service. If you can procure some glycerine, with 3 grains of sugar of lead to the ounce of glycerine, keep the heels moist and soft with this, washing them gently with warm water and drying them carefully. Apply lotion directly after washing. If you have only carbolic oil, use that, but add one half more plain oil. If you can, ease the horse's work; look to the horse's feeding and see it is nourishing; give a few diuretic powders. Cracked heels show a stomach out of order, and a weak constitution. Avoid buying a horse who has them, unless he has counterbalancing good qualities.

Colds and coughs are difficult to get rid of on service. Endeavour to ease the horse in his work. See that all his food is damped and that he has damp hay and green meat with each feed, if procurable. Rub mustard into the gullet, and if he is not doing violent work, give diuretic powders. (*See* Appendix.)

For cold with nasal discharge, steam the horse's head frequently with nosebag full of bran, boiling water having been poured upon it, and a few drops of turpentine added. Endeavour to keep the horse isolated and to obtain professional advice, so as to ascertain the character of the discharge. Harmless discharge from cold is yellow, thick, and flows free, as opposed to the dangerous discharge which is whiter, thinner, and dries on the nostril to a certain extent.

The Feet. Thrush. Keep as clean and as dry as

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possible. Use plug of tar and tow, strong carbolic oil.

Sandcrack. Cut down with drawing-knife at top of crack till you come to sound hoof. When cracked part of hoof moves, it then will not affect the sound horn, and the crack will not spread. Also burn with hot iron at right angles to crack, to stop it spreading, taking care to avoid sensitive part of coronet. Endeavour to keep the crack covered so as to prevent mud, grit, &c., getting into it.

Bruise of Sole. Poultice; soft standing, and rest.

Staking and prick. Poultice. In these cases, in case of suppuration, take care an exit is made for the matter from below. The water will else find its way out at coronet and the horse will be disabled for months.

If *mange* makes its appearance among your horses, cut close forelocks, manes, and tails. If you cannot get the assistance of a veterinary surgeon or the proper medicines, rub in paraffine or train oil, when the sun is well up, or when the horse has been warmed by exercise: take great care that every inch of the horse is anointed. After forty-eight hours wash with soap and hot water if procurable, dry the horse as well as possible (half a cask hoop makes an excellent scraper), and rub in the oil again. Repeat this three or four times. Isolate the infected horses as far as is practicable; destroy everything connected with them if you cannot have everything disinfected by being dipped in a disinfectant, say carbolic acid 1 part to 30 of water. If the horses attacked by mange are poor, endeavour to increase their food, and if you can get it, allow each horse a pint of beer every evening for a week.

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For worms. Give when the horse, and therefore the parasites, are fasting, a pint drench as follows: spirits of turpentine 1 part, oil 4 parts.

For inflammation of bladder or kidneys, inject carefully warm linseed tea and place mustard plaster over loins. To make a mustard plaster more powerful, moisten with turpentine.

Over purgation or severe scouring, inject the following. Take a quart of water as warm as you can bear the hand in, throw in two double handfuls of flour, stir for two minutes, when the sediment of flour has sunk, add one ounce laudanum, and use when blood warm.

If your horse is in good condition and receives an injury, such as a blow or a cut, which will incapacitate him from work for ten days, if you give him a physic-ball (*see* Appendix), you will find the wound will heal up sooner and that the horse will preserve his condition better. It is a simple thing as a general rule to give a ball to a horse who has been accustomed to be petted and handled. First give him a piece of bread, and while he is snuffing at you for more, take hold of his muzzle gently, open his mouth, pull his tongue gently out of his mouth with your left hand, draw the ball rapidly and quietly from your pocket, holding it between your first, second, and third fingers of your right hand—your arm must be bare—push your hand and arm boldly yet gently into the horse's mouth, taking care to hold the ball straight and the mouth wide open by pressing the tongue against the horse's cheek, slip the ball over the root of the tongue, withdraw your hand and drop the tongue. Hold up the horse's head

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and watch the horse's gullet, and you will see the ball pass down.

When you decide on purging your horse, give him a bran-mash when he comes in at night from work (if he is at work), and the ball in the morning. If not in work, give him a mash at noon and again at night, and give him the ball a couple of hours after another mash in the morning. The old practice of preparing a horse for physic for three days has been now given up as old-fashioned and unnecessary. The horse must of course be mashed all the time he is purging. The mashes for preparing him should be as 'sloppy' as possible, *while* he is purging the bran need be only well damped. If he over-purges, give a little dry bran with handful of flour or ground rice, dock of hay, or any substitute for it, but no corn.

If no bran is procurable, do not purge your horse with aloes, but drench him, or, safer still, use diuretic powders. (*See* Appendix.)

For sore backs time is the chief cure. Prevention must be more thought of than cure. If you must use a horse with a sore back, endeavour to shift the bearing of the saddle from the spot. Use carbolic acid on an open sore, cold water pads on a pinched or wrung back.

If there is suppuration, use a bread poultice with a few drops of extract of lead, appoint it, but get professional advice if possible.

It may be here remarked that the above notes are only intended to show how horses, and their most common ailments, can be dealt with in a rough and ready manner when proper advice, medicines, and appliances are not forthcoming.

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CHAPTER V.

TRAVELLING ON HORSEBACK.

WHEN an officer is sent on special duty and has to perform his journeys on horseback and travel long distances, say from fifty to seventy miles a day with the same animals, he is (though perhaps well used to the hunting field, and accustomed to the ways of horse flesh) sometimes at a loss how to make his horses travel. These notes may perhaps assist him.

Carefully overhaul every part of your saddlery and equipment before undertaking your journey. And take care every buckle and strap is in good order.

If your regulation saddle is properly built and well stuffed, it should fit any horse.

If you do not wish to use the regulation bridle, or desire a simpler one, the following is a neat and useful pattern.

A brass-mounted head stall with an *unjointed* Pelham with a sliding port (like a light driving bit), fastened to the headstall with billets (*i.e.* buckles and straps).

Every horse should have his bridle complete, with picket rope, &c., and a nosebag, but if there are any led horses they need not have saddles. Extra saddles

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are of no use, and are so much extra weight. As a matter of course you will endeavour to travel as light as possible. The weight of kit, etc., must depend to a certain extent upon the amount of food and shelter you can depend upon obtaining *en route*.

As to covering, unless the weather is severe a good blanket and your waterproof cloak should suffice. These should be carried in separate rolls on the fans of your saddle, but strapped together by the same straps. Round the blanket should be passed a very light waterproof sheet. If a second blanket or greatcoat is necessary, it should be strapped over the pommel of your saddle.

Carry two saddle bags, regulation pattern. They should contain service forage cap, shirt, socks, silk handkerchief, night cap, pair of black slippers (canvas or thin leather coming up to the ankle), case with folding knife, fork, and spoon, pepper and salt, flask, chocolate, sausage, biscuit, clothes brush, towel, soap, dubbing, carbolic oil, lint, bandage, &c., dandy brush, sponge: strapped on saddle, should be canteen with etna and matches, and nosebags and picker.

Your writing things will be in your sabretache. You will find a strong hunting crop with a loaded butt and a hammer at the handle a most useful article to carry.

If possible, travel with a led horse. When once accustomed to travelling in this manner, it will be found the led horse gives no trouble, and the advantages of travelling with a led horse are immense.

Horses travel in company much more happily and easily to themselves, and to yourself.

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A much greater distance can be accomplished and in a comparatively shorter time, as with two horses a much greater rate of speed can be sustained.

If one horse gets disabled, your journey is not stopped.

Unless there is no special reason for requiring a servant or an orderly, and unless you can give him also a spare horse, it is better to make shift without him and make use of his horse.

Before your horses get accustomed to travelling in hand, if there is any hanging back on the part of the led horse, do not pull at him, but circle to the right, and as you turn again towards your front, touch him on the quarter with your crop, and set your own horse going at the same time.

When you start, call to your horses, using your legs and crop at the same time; the animals will soon learn to break into the travelling pace at the sound of your voice.

Each evening before a start see that everything is ready for an early move, down to the feed you intend to give your horses before leaving.

If you are not sure of awaking, procure an alarum, and set it for, say, an hour before sunrise.

You will probably have to call your orderly or servant, unless they are exceptionally keen and good men.

Directly you are awake in the morning and have ascertained the time, pull on your breeches and boots and set your horses feeding (as a rule horses do not care for water before dawn, but you should try them, and if they will, let them take a moderate quantity); then

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complete your preparations, getting what you intend to have to eat, taking care your orderly (whom you must look after together with your horses) gets his share, and make your start.

At no time do minutes seem to run so quickly as in the morning, and if you are to make a good day's journey, and things are to go well with you, it is all important that you should get off early.

If you are quick, and if you and your servant do not get in each other's way, it will take you from twenty-five to thirty minutes from the time you pull on your boots to the time you set your horses in motion.

On the care with which you use your horses on the first stage of the day depends the way they will do their day's work. Let them then walk for the first ten or fifteen minutes, and then start them into your travelling pace, which should not exceed about eight to eight-and-a-half miles an hour *with* a led horse. With one horse you cannot go so fast. This pace can be exceeded if you have only two or three days' journey to do, but you cannot travel faster if there is a long distance to cover.

The great secret to get horses to travel far is to keep them always at a steady pace, never let them get blown or allow them to gallop, or go faster than a steady canter. Keep up to time by making them walk fast and making them tripple or amble.

Dismount and lead down long or steep hills; you will rest yourself and your horses, and will get down much faster.

The canter is the best pace for your comfort; let

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the horse in hand choose his own pace: it will probably be the trot.

The first stage should not be a long one—an hour and a half is enough—the other stages should be from two hours to two hours and a half. In a three hours' stage you should halt and dismount in the middle for five minutes to ease your horses.

When you near any place you intend to halt, walk your horse for the last three-quarters of a mile—for the last mile, if you are not pushed for time. Arrived at the halting place, unsaddle your horse at once, his back being hot (heterodox as it sounds) will not matter in the least, and let him and his comrade have a good roll, and then endeavour to get them to stale. Should they perform these two operations, you may be sure that, though the animals may be tired, there is not much amiss with them.

At each halt let the horses have a moderate amount of water, and let them wash their mouths and have a couple of go-downs at any streams which may be passed. Time yourself whenever you halt; at such occasions time goes very quickly.

Twenty minutes to half an hour for a halt, when you do not feed; an hour to an hour and a half for halts, when you *do*, is about the time which should be allowed.

If you wish to let your horses graze, and are quite sure of your capacity to catch them again, 'knee-halter' them: pass the picket rope round the foreleg, above the knee with a half-hitch, short enough to confine the horse's head.

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If you intend to make a habit of knee-haltering your horses, get a knee-haltering pad—a broad, padded strap with a ring for the picket rope. This will prevent the horse's leg being cut by the picket rope.

The above plan is better than hobbling, as horses can feed quicker; but it cannot be used with horses fresh from stables and good living. If you knee-halter near deep water, look after your horses; if a knee-haltered horse gets into deep water he drowns in a few minutes.

If one of your horses takes to brushing, get a piece of flannel, and some tape or rag; put some carbolic oil on the spot, and wrap the flannel round the fetlock, and tie the tape round so that a third of the depth of the flannel can be turned down over it. The bandage will then remain in its place; but will slip if you do not turn the edge over.

If he brushes badly, and cuts deep, take him 'in hand;' there will be then less chance of his brushing. If you cannot put him to rights by shifting his shoes, then get rid of him. If that is not possible, always ride him the first part of the day, so that he has to carry you when he is at his best.

As a rule, change on to your led horse every stage. Look out at each stage for loose shoes, sore backs, girth galls, &c.—your crupper will assist you to keep off the latter. Use carbolic oil freely upon any abrasion of your own or your horse's skin.

Try and bring your horses in cool to the place where you halt for the night. When arrived there, spare no pains to get your horses comfortable; the trouble will

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repay you. You will, of course, see them watered and fed as soon as they have rolled and are cool. But go to them the last thing, and see they have enough to eat during the night; it is then that horses who are journeying all day do a good deal of feeding.

If you are sure of the road, and the weather is hot, and especially if there is a moon, do some of your travelling at night. Horses travel well by night, if there is enough starlight or moonlight for them to see the track.

In choosing horses for a journey, remember that they need not have the qualities which are essential in a park hack or first charger.

Disregard ugliness, colour, and blemishes, except as they affect the probable usefulness of the animal.

Remember that condition in a horse required for a long journey is more important than shape, and as important as soundness. If you have to choose for immediate hard work between two horses of equal merits, one fat and soft, and the other lean and hard, choose the latter, if he is not worse than merely lean; but if he is weak, from being so low in flesh, reject him, and take the fat one, making him a led horse for the first few days.

If you are in a country where stallions are ridden, and are quarrelsome, you must satisfy yourself that you are not bringing fighters together, or you will get into difficulties.

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POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE the foregoing pages have been in the press, the new pattern shoulder straps have come into use. They are rather difficult things to fit, and unless carefully arranged and fitted do not look well. The shoulder straps should be made to come well out to and even rather over the point of the shoulder. They should be made stiff, and the points (well stiffened) should be turned rather upwards, so as to look square, and give rather the idea of an epaulet. When thus fitted, the shoulder straps are a handsome addition to the tunic.

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APPENDIX.

Recipe for Varnish.—No. 1.

Black ink	1 pint
Claret	1 bottle
Sugar candy	6 oz.
Gum arabic	1 lb.
Vinegar	½ pint.

Boil and stir well, and when gum is quite dissolved add 1 pint spirits of wine and a wine-glass of brandy. Strain twice through muslin. Bottle off and let varnish stand for a day or two before using.

Recipe for Varnish.—No. 2.

Black ink	1 pint
Claret	1 pint
Sugar candy	4 oz.
Gum arabic	8 oz.

To be warmed up and well stirred. The gum arabic to be put in 4 oz. at a time. In two or three days, when the gum is well dissolved, add spirits of wine, ½ pint, and bottle off.

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HORSE MEDICINES AND PRESCRIPTIONS.

Arnica Lotion.

For Blows, Sprains, etc.

Extract of arnica	1¼ oz.
Spirits of wine, brandy, or whiskey	A wine-glassful
Water	1 quart

If arnica cannot be obtained :—

Vinegar	A cupful
Spirits of wine or brandy	Half a cupful
Water	1 quart

Purging Balls.

Barbadoes aloes	5½ drams.
Powdered gentian	1 dram.

Make up small, with soap and a little powdered ginger. This ball is of medium strength. Increase or decrease aloes by ½ a dram as required. In case of a horse being foul, give in mash the night before balling him the following powder: Calomel, 20 grs. : opium, 4 grs. If the horse is suffering much from liver, give this powder for three successive nights previous to balling him.

Drenches.

For Gripes.

Sulphuric ether	1 oz.
Laudanum	1 oz.
Oil	1 oz.

Shake up well before using.

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To Purge.

Linseed oil	1 pint

For Worms.

Linseed oil	1 pint
Spirits of turpentine	½ pint

Eye Lotion.

To stop Discharge after Cold.

Sulphate of zinc	1 gr.
Water	1 oz.

For Soothing and Healing after a Blow.

Sugar of lead	2 gr.
Water	1 oz.

Ointments.

Soothing Ointment for Cracked Heels.

Glycerine	1 oz.
Extract of lead	3 gr.

Or—

Carbonate of lead	6 gr.
Hog's lard	1 oz.

For open and irritated Sores.

Carbolic acid	1 part
Oil or lard	20 parts

For Bruises, Abrasions, Mange, etc.

Carbolic acid	1 part
Oil or lard	16 parts

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A substitute, if no carbolic acid can be had :—

Paraffin oil	1 part
Olive oil	10 parts

Stronger :—

Paraffin oil	1 part
Olive oil	6 parts

Powders.

Diuretic.

Powdered sulphur	4 oz.
Nitre	3 oz.
Yellow resin	4 oz.

Mix, and divide into twelve powders. Give one night and morning. Horse to do moderate work. If horse's work cannot be eased, give a powder at night only.

Tonic Powder.

Sulphate of iron	1 dr.
Powdered gentian	1 dr.

Give every night.

If horse is very low and weak, give a pint of porter every night.

In cases of weakness arising from hide-bound or mange, add to powder :

Arsenic	3 gr.

for twenty days.

When a horse has to receive medicine or undergo an operation of some sort, it is often desirable to remove or overcome any power of resistance on his part.

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A twitch is often sufficient for sewing up a wound, bleeding, etc. This is simply a loop of string on a stout stick 2 ft. 6 in. long. The loop is passed over the soft part of the horse's upper lip and twisted tight. It is generally used too severely, and the animal who has had it on has a sore lip for days afterwards.

When a horse has to undergo something more severe; or if he is troublesome when being balled, rearing, or trying to strike with his fore legs, place a strip of rug or cloth round his neck where a collar would fall, and place over this round his neck a stout leather strap or cord. To one of his hind pasterns (which should have a piece of flannel or rug round it to prevent its being cut), attach the end of a rope thirty feet long; pass the rope through the strap round the neck, and let a man hold the other end in rear of the horse. When the operation is to begin, the horse must have the tethered hind leg picked up, the man with the rope must bear strongly upon it, and the animal's leg be thus kept up until the operation is over.

In case the operation is severe enough to demand the horse being cast, attach a rope to both hind pasterns instead of to one. When pulled on to his haunches, lift up one of his fore legs, and pull him over to his side. All this must be done as gently and quietly as possible, and on a soft piece of ground, with rushes, or grass, or blankets, if there is any danger of the horse being hurt.

When on his side, let there be a man ready to press steadily on the horse's neck just behind the head, to prevent the horse moving. He should have a rug or coat to throw half under the horse's head to protect his eye from the ground, and half over it, to prevent the animal seeing what is being or going to be done to him.

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